

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment claims 1-25 were pending. By this amendment, claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 21, and 22 are amended, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 18, and 20 are canceled without prejudice, new claims 26-33 have been added leaving claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17, 19, 21-25, and 26-33 pending consideration. Applicants aver that no new matter is added in this response.

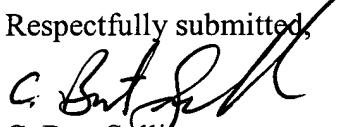
Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17, 19, and 21-25 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 22 in independent form. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, claim 10 depends from claim 9, claim 16 depends from claim 15, and claims 23-25 depend from claim 22. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17, 19, and 21-25 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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